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Message Text

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43
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 FBIE-00 USSS-00 SP-03

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 FEA-02 /164 W
---------- 124652
R 311143Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0718
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, IMF, IBRD, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAIT ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL IMF/IBRD MEETINGS.

REF: (A) STATE 182246 (B) JIDDA 4984

1. GOK DELEGATION TO ANNUAL IMF/IBRD MEETINGS WILL BE SMALLER AND LESS SENIOR THAN NORMALLY THE CASE. NEITHER MINISTER FINANCE AND OIL ATEEQI NOR HIS DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENTS KHALED ABU SU'UD PLAN ATTNED. AS NOTED PARA 4 REF B ATEEQI ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING, (HE TOLD ME HE FIRST MADE REQUEST LAST FALL THAT MEETINGS NOT BE SCHEDULED DURING FIRST MONTH OF RAMADAN), AND WAS RATHER MIFFED THAT IMF DID NOT EVEN REPLY TO HIS REQUEST.

2. KUWAIT DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF GOVERNOR KUWAIT CENTRAL BANK HAMZA ABBAS HUSSAIN AND ABDUL LATIF AL-HAMAD, DIRECTOR GENERAL KUWAIT FUND FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HUSSAIN WILL TAKE PART IN IMF AND AL-HAMAD IN INRD ASPECTS OF ANNUAL MEETINGS. BELEVE MEMBERS USG DEL WILL FIND IT WELL WORTH
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THEIR WHILE TALK INFORMALLY WITH HUSSAIN AND AL-HAMAD. FYI

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NEITHER PRESENTLY IN KUWAIT, BUT NORMALLY AFTER WASHINGTON ANNUAL MEETINGS HUSSAIN HAS MEETINGS WITH NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OFFICIALS. GOOD CHANCE AL-HAMAD WILL ALSO MAKE PRIVATE BUSINESS CALLS IN US. END FYI.

3. ABU SU'UD TOLD EMBOFF GOK DEL UNLIKELY TO RAISE ANY SPECIFIC MATTERS IN PLENARY OR BILATERALLY WITH US. IN ANY CASE GOK NORMALLY ABIDES BY ARAB CONCENSUS IN SUCH GATHERINGS. THEY WILL MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN IN ARAB CAUCUS. ALTHOUGH MEMBERS USDEL MAY WISH REVIEW IN GENERAL TERMS CURRENT OIL AND INVESTMENT ISSUES WITH HUSSAIN AND AL-HAMAD, WE RECOMMEND THEY AVOID DISCUSSION SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OF OPEC PRICE INCREASES OR GOK PURCHASES OF US TREASURY PAPER. ATEEQI PREFERS HANDLE THESE SUBJECTS QUIETLY HIMSELF (SEPTEL).

4. COMMENT: WE DISAPPOINTED ATEEQI AND ABU SU'UD MISSING THIS YEAR'S MEETINGS SINCE WE THOUGHT THEIR VISIT TO US WOULD HAVE PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY SIMON'S DISCUSSIONS HERE IN JULY. WHILE WE BELIEVE ATEEQI PERFECTLY SINCERE IN WANTING SPEND RAMADAN IN KUWAIT, WE ALSO NOTE THAT BY MISSING MEETING ATEEQI WILL BE ABLE AVOID FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES FROM BOTH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND LDCS WHO COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO QUESTION HIM SHARPLY ON OIL PRICE MATTERS.
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